



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155
Seattle, WA 98101-3123

OFFICE OF
WATER AND WATERSHEDS

DEC 14 2018

Mr. Ron Doughten
Water Quality Permit Program Manager
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
700 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 600
Portland, OR 97232

Re: Request for Clean Water Act section 401(a)(2) letter withdrawal re: National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for Washington federal hydroelectric generating facilities on the Lower Columbia and Lower Snake Rivers

Dear Mr. Doughten:

The EPA received Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's (ODEQ) letter on November 30, 2018 with a precautionary objection to the preliminary draft NPDES permits for the Washington federal hydroelectric generating facilities on the Lower Columbia and Lower Snake Rivers. The letter also describes the uncertainty of pending actions that could affect the permits and requests that EPA withdraw its Clean Water Act section 401(a)(2) notification letter sent on October 1, 2018 and reissue the notice at a later date.

The EPA agrees that several processes are occurring that warrant additional time for the section 401(a)(2) review from ODEQ. On December 7, 2018, Washington Department of Ecology requested an extension on their Clean Water Act section 401 certification until February 1, 2019. ODEQ requested a timeline that aligns with Washington Department of Ecology's Clean Water Act section 401 certification among other processes. Therefore, the EPA is also granting ODEQ an extension until February 1, 2019 on the Clean Water Act 401(a)(2) review.

The EPA also requests a meeting with ODEQ to discuss the permits further, including on the Bonneville Project, John Day Project, and McNary Lock and Dam, which will have permits from both the EPA for outfalls in Washington and ODEQ for outfalls in Oregon.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jenny Wu, of my staff, at (206) 553-6328 or Wu.Jennifer@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Paulson for".

Michael J. Lidgard
Manager, NPDES Permits Unit

cc: Jennifer Wigal, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (via email)
Steve Mrazik, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (via email)
Beth Moore, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (via email)